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REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated August 2, 2004. Claims 1-45 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 29 have been amended to clarify the claimed invention. Support for the clarifying amendment to the claims can be found in the application, for example, at page 10, line 16 through page 11, line 19, and page 23, lines 1-8, and in Figures 1 and 2.

The Office Action indicates that claims 21-28 and 38-45 are allowed.

Claims 1-20 and 29-37 are presented for reconsideration, with claims 1 and 29 being in independent form.

Claims 1-6, 12, 29-33 and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as purportedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,687,742 to Iwazaki. Claims 9-11, 13, 17, 19 and 34-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as purportedly obvious over Iwazaki.

Applicant has carefully considered the Examiner's comments and the cited art, and respectfully submits that independent claims 1 and 29 are patentable over the cited art, for at least the following reasons.

This application relates to an Internet facsimile gateway device which is connected to a telecommunication network (for example, a public analog network, an ISDN, etc.) and to the Internet. Internet facsimile gateway devices make it possible for a host device connected to the Internet to exchange messages with a facsimile device connected to a telecommunication network. When the host device needs to transmit image information to the facsimile device, the host device transmits an electronic mail message requesting image-information transmission to the Internet facsimile gateway device. The Internet facsimile gateway device then manages image-information transmission processes. Conventional Internet facsimile gateway devices do not allow the host device (as a sender) to keep track of transmission of image information to the

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facsimile device and confirm delivery of the image information to the facsimile device.

This application describes an improved Internet facsimile gateway device which enables a sender of image information to easily confirm status of facsimile transmission of the image information to a facsimile device as a receiver of the facsimile transmission.

For example, independent claim 1 is directed to an Internet facsimile gateway device which includes an image-information transmitting unit, a delivery-confirmation-mail creating unit and a delivery-confirmation-mail transmitting unit. The image-information transmitting unit transmits image information included in an electronic mail message to a facsimile device by facsimile transmission over the telecommunication network that is not the Internet, when the Internet facsimile gateway device receives the electronic mail message requesting image-information transmission to the facsimile device. The delivery-confirmation-mail creating unit creates a delivery-confirmation mail message notifying a result of the image-information transmission after the image-information transmission by the Internet facsimile gateway device is completed, if the electronic mail message requests the Internet facsimile gateway device to transmit the delivery-confirmation mail message to an original address of the electronic mail message. The delivery-confirmation-mail transmitting unit transmits the delivery-confirmation mail message to the original address of the electronic mail message.

The cited art does not disclose or suggest the claimed invention.

Iwazaki, as understood by Applicant, is directed to communication control for an electronic mail system in which a plurality of electronic mail devices transmit and receive images in the form of electronic mail over the Internet. According to Iwazaki, when it is desired to transmit an image through an electronic mail system to a destination whose capability is unknown, a capability-requesting e-mail is first sent to the destination. However, if the destination has an electronic mail apparatus with limited functions (such as those of ordinary

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electronic mail software), according to Iwazaki, the apparatus will not recognize the capability request and its behavior is unpredictable.

Iwazaki teaches an Internet-facsimile apparatus which purportedly obviates such problems, that is, the communication control for Internet facsimile as taught by Iwazaki purportedly guarantees interoperability between the electronic mail sender and the electronic mail receiver. The sender and the receiver exchange e-mails through one or more e-mail servers.

The Office Action states that Iwazaki discloses an image transmitting unit 11 that transmits image information included in an electronic mail message S9 to a fax device 6, 7 or 8 when the device 3, 4, 5 or 11 receives an e-mail message from e-mail server 5 requesting image transmission to the fax device from terminal device 103.

It is noted that unit 11 of Iwazaki is a router through which an e-mail from device 3, 4, 5 or 11 can be routed to the Internet. Such a e-mail may include image information and may be addressed to devices 6, 7 or 8.

While Iwazaki discloses features for transmitting e-mails containing assorted information through the Internet, Applicant does not find disclosure or suggestion in Iwazaki, however, of an Internet facsimile gateway device, as provided by the claimed invention of independent claim 1 as amended, wherein the image-information transmitting unit transmits image information included in an electronic mail message to a facsimile device **by facsimile transmission over the telecommunication network that is not the Internet**, when the Internet facsimile gateway device receives the electronic mail message requesting image-information transmission to the facsimile device.

Independent claim 29 is patentably distinct from the cited art for at least similar reasons.

Accordingly, for at least the above-stated reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1 and 29, and the claims depending therefrom, are patentable over the cited

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art.

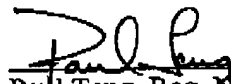
The Office Action indicates that claims 7, 8, 14-16, 18 and 20 (which each depends from claim 1, either directly or indirectly) are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. However, since independent claim 1, from which each of claims 7, 8, 14-16, 18 and 20 depend either directly or indirectly, is submitted to be patentable over the cited art, no changes to the form of claims 7, 8, 14-16, 18 and 20 are believed to be necessary.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition. The Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required in connection with this amendment and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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